

sweating, and faintness, also within five minutes of a dose of 5–10 mg of sodium azide.

In our report three technicians ingested some 40 mg sodium azide and developed symptoms that disappeared quickly and completely. The fourth who ingested only some 20 mg was affected to a lesser degree. The male technician who presented a clinical picture of myocardial ischaemia ingested some 80 mg of sodium azide. This patient had no knowledge at that time of the illness of the others, or that his symptoms were due to sodium azide.

The severity of symptoms was thus related to the dose ingested in four of the patients. In the technician with a dose of 80 mg, however, symptoms of myocardial ischaemia developed, and these have not previously been described. The initial rapid recovery after a few hours is not inconsistent with the view that this was a direct result of the sodium azide, although the recurrent episodes of chest pain with

admission to hospital suggest an added psychogenic element.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Sutton WL. In: Patty FA, ed. *Industrial hygiene and toxicology*. 2nd rev ed. Vol 2. New York: Interscience Publisher, 1980:220–8.
- <sup>2</sup> Black MM, Sweifach BW, Speer FD. Comparison of hypotensive action of sodium azide in hypertensive patients. *Proc Soc Exp Biol Med* 1954;**85**:11–6.
- <sup>3</sup> Richardson SGN, Giles C, Swan CHJ. Two cases of sodium azide poisoning by accidental ingestion of isotone. *J Clin Pathol* 1975;**28**:350–1.
- <sup>4</sup> Gobbi A. Re casi di intossicazione da sodio-azide. *Med Lav* 1967;**58**:297–300.
- <sup>5</sup> Burger E, Bauer HM. Akuter Vergiftungsfall durch versehentliches Trinken von Natriumazidlosung. *Archiv für Toxikologie* 1965;**20**:279–83.
- <sup>6</sup> Kozlicka-Gajdzinska H, Brzyski J. A case of fatal intoxication with sodium azide. *Archiv für Toxikologie* 1966;**22**:160–3.
- <sup>7</sup> Emmett EA, Ricking JA. Fatal self-administration of sodium azide. *Ann Intern Med* 1975;**83**:224–6.

### Scipione Caccuri Prize

The “Fondazione Clinica del Lavoro” has established an International L20 000 000 (twenty million Italian lire) prize in memory of Professor Scipione Caccuri, the former director of the Institute of Occupational Medicine at the University of Naples. The prize will be assigned to a previously unpublished work making an original contribution in the field of occupational and industrial medicine, physiopathology, and hygiene. Texts written in Italian, French, English, German, or Spanish considered meritorious will be published in a special number of *Giornale Italiano di Medicina del Lavoro*. Such texts should be addressed to: Segreteria della Fondazione Clinica del Lavoro, Via Boezio, 26, 27100 Pavia (Italy) and should be received by 31 December 1983.

### Correction

**Acute and subacute symptoms among workers in the printing industry (February 1982)**

Figures 4 and 5 have been interchanged: figure 4 is the figure on page 73 while figure 5 is on page 72.